

I was disheartened to learn that Tennessee has the highest childhood obesity rate in the country. While, nationally, 31 percent of kids are obese or overweight—a number that is already too high—in Tennessee, the rate is 38 percent.

Childhood obesity has lifelong consequences. It leaves our kids at a higher rate for cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke, diabetes, and even certain types of cancer.

Research has shown that early childhood is a critical time for the development of lifelong dietary and physical activities.

That is why we are introducing the Reducing Obesity in Youth Act.

If enacted, this bill would create a competitive grant program to incentivize the development of healthier early care and education environments to improve healthy eating and physical activity for children under five.

It's time that we act. I urge my colleagues to help pass this bill.

### HONORING HOWARD "REED" HERITAGE

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Howard "Reed" Heritage, who passed away on Saturday, July 21, 2018.

Reed was born and raised in the town of Richwood, New Jersey. Reed was part of the first class at nearby Clearview High School and later graduated from Delaware Valley College. In the early part of the 1970s, Reed moved to California, where he would go to work on behalf of the California Farm Bureau. As an advocate for one of California's largest industries, Reed represented farmers and sought solutions to the many challenges that impacted their businesses.

When he was not working on behalf of California farmers, Reed loved to cheer on his favorite sports teams—including the San Francisco 49ers and the San Francisco Giants. Reed was also a big fan of the Olympic Games and traveled to watch the games in person in Athens, Beijing, Atlanta, Montreal, Los Angeles, and Sydney. Traveling to new cities throughout Europe and Asia was one of Reed's favorite past times.

I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to Reed's family and friends, who I know will deeply miss him.

### CELEBRATING MRS. GRACIE G. SIMPSON

#### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a beloved role model and gracious woman of faith, Mrs. Gracie G. Simpson who will be celebrating her 90th birthday on Saturday, September 1, 2018. On this day, there will be a celebration at the Claystone Park Pavilion at Lake Tobesofkee in Macon, Georgia.

Gracie Mae Peck was born on August 29, 1928 in Macon, Georgia to the late Willie B. Peck and the late Claire Mae Fulton. She was the second child, with one older sister, one younger sister, and two younger brothers, all of whom are now deceased.

Back in the days when she was young, many children did not have the opportunity to complete school and had to begin working at a young age. For 43 years of her life, Mrs. Simpson worked at Tom's Foods, Inc., known to many as "the candy company." However, she was able to return to school to take computer classes before retiring.

Mrs. Simpson was married to J.Z. Simpson, Sr. for 54 years until his death in October of 2008. She has three sons, Donald Gibson, Jr., Zebbie Simpson, and Michael Simpson, and one daughter, Jan Simpson Walker.

She has eight grandchildren: Donald, Eunice, Christen, Jerome, Marcus, Marvin, Keisha, and Kelicia. She also has six great-grandchildren: Grace, Hannah, Abigail, Katelynn, DJ, and Christian.

Mrs. Simpson has achieved numerous successes in her life, but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of her adoring family. Voted "Reigning Queen" at Pearl Stephens Village Senior Apartments, she enjoys fishing and going on walks. She loves spending time with her family and is a great cook. She makes a mean sweet potato pie and a delicious peach cobbler. She is full of life and spunk and her family knows very well that "if you don't want to hear the truth, don't ask her a question."

Most important to Mrs. Simpson is her sturdy and enduring relationship with the Lord. She has been a member of Greater Little Rock Baptist Church for over 60 years. She has served on the Mother Board Association, Choir, Deaconesses, Food Bank, Women of Flow Ministry, and Kitchen Ministry.

The race of life isn't given to the swift or to the strong, but to those who endure until the end. Mrs. Simpson has run the race of life with grace and dignity and God has blessed her over her lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 730,000 constituents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia, in recognizing Mrs. Gracie G. Simpson for her 90 fruitful and productive years of life. We extend our best wishes to her as she, her family, and friends celebrate her birthday.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make clear that, had I been able to vote, I would have voted Yea on roll call votes 181, 182, and 183 on May 15, 2018.

LAURA EFURD

#### HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), I rise today to honor the life of Laura Efurd, a cherished staffer and public servant who passed away earlier this month at the age of 54 after a hard-fought battle with ampullary cancer.

Laura was born on the Big Island of Hawaii, and raised both in Kona and Mililani, Hawaii. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Communications and Political Science from Ouachita Baptist University and began her career in Washington, D.C. as a Legislative Assistant to former Congressman Tommy F. Robinson of Arkansas.

After earning her Master's Degree in International Communications from American University, she joined the staff of the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink of Hawaii as her Legislative Director in 1990.

During her time on Capitol Hill, Laura played an instrumental role in elevating the voices of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She was there at the founding of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus in 1994 and served as the Caucus' Principal Staff Member from 1995 to 1999 under the chairmanship of Congresswoman Patsy Mink.

The Caucus began with five Asian American and Pacific Islander Members of the House and two Senators. They hailed from two states and the Pacific Island territories of American Samoa and Guam. Today, CAPAC includes a historic high of 15 Asian American and Pacific Islander House Members and three Senators who represent ten states and territories. There is no doubt that Laura's work helped to build the foundation to give us the voice that we have today. In her quiet way, she helped our Caucus to become twice as loud.

Laura was also one of the founding Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Staff Association and was one of the driving forces behind the creation of an internship program for young Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to pursue careers in public service.

She left Capitol Hill in 1999, when she was appointed by President William Clinton, first to the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at the U.S. Department of Labor, and then as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of the White House's Office of Public Liaison.

During her time in the Clinton administration, Laura was instrumental in the creation of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, which created a coordinated voice within the White House and federal agencies to address issues of critical concern to our American communities.

Outside government service, she joined the executive leadership of ZeroDivide—an organization based in California dedicated to increasing economic and educational opportunities, expanding civic engagement and access to technology, and improving health care for low-income and underserved communities.

She later returned to the U.S. Congress and most recently served as a trusted aide to Senator MAZIE K. HIRONO of Hawaii, where she

managed the daily operations in Senator HIRONO's Honolulu State Office.

Laura also served as a member of the Federal Communications Commission Consumer Advisory Committee, the Center for Women's Policy Studies, and as Chair of the Governor of California's Task Force on Broadband, Community Development, and Public/Private Partnerships. In all of these roles, she worked tirelessly to give a voice to the voiceless.

Her desire to help and uplift others remained a central focus throughout her career. Laura's friends often recount they had a very clear picture of her intelligence, her kindness, and her concern for others—as well as the steel in her spine. They also say she was one of the best listeners they have ever known. She never focused on promoting herself. Instead, she worked behind the scenes to ensure that others had a seat at the table and dedicated her life's work to helping people find their voices. Those were the battles she loved winning.

Even though Laura did not seek the spotlight, she was truly a force of nature who made a lasting impression on the lives she touched. I know that her legacy will live on through her family and friends, as well as the institutions she helped to create and shape throughout her career.

The Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus join Laura's family and friends both in mourning her loss and celebrating the historic contributions of a truly great American.

#### THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AT THE BORDER

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**  
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, July 26, 2018*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the thousands of immigrant families who have been torn apart at our nation's border.

The United States is a country of immigrants with a proud legacy of protecting families fleeing violence and persecution. As a nation, we are a voice for human rights, which is why I was deeply disturbed when news broke that the Trump Administration was ripping innocent children from their parents as their families sought asylum in the United States. I was alarmed when I heard about President Trump's criminal prosecution of all those seeking shelter within our borders.

Last weekend, I went to the border with some of my colleagues to see for myself the impact of President Trump's "zero tolerance" policy. After seeing detention centers where children are still separated from their parents, after witnessing the immigration courts where asylum seekers are prosecuted en masse, after seeing the inhumane conditions that families are being held in at processing facilities, I can only report that this President's anti-family immigration policy is a disaster.

Mr. Speaker, there is a humanitarian crisis happening right in our own backyard.

At one detention facility, my colleagues and I met a grandmother who had brought her grandchildren to the United States, fleeing violence in her home country. They traveled across the Rio Grande by boat and she lost

one of her grandchildren on the way. When she reached our shores, she thought she would find refuge, but her remaining grandchildren were taken from her and put into a separate detention facility.

After weeks in detention, they still have not been reunited because the process this Administration has put in place only recognizes parents and their children, not grandparents, siblings or relatives as part of the family unit. She told us her story in tears. As someone who grew up close to their grandmother, I can only imagine the pain that she and her grandchildren must feel being separated—after traveling through such horrendous conditions to reach America. In our privilege, it's hard to imagine what conditions this family must have been living in to take that dangerous journey to our shores.

My colleagues and I also visited a federal courthouse in McAllen, Texas, where we observed court proceedings for detained immigrants who were seeking asylum in the United States, fleeing violence in their home countries. Instead of recognizing their right of asylum, the court processed these immigrants en masse. These immigrants also pled guilty en masse, setting them on a course to be deported back to the countries they had fled because of violence. So far, over 400 immigrant parents have been deported without their children! How will they find their way home?

We met with border patrol officers who told us that their jobs have been complicated by the actions of the Trump Administration. Mr. Speaker, we need to support the law enforcement officers who keep our country safe, but this Administration's "zero tolerance" policy has failed them, creating a logistical and human rights nightmare that they do not have the support to solve.

This is why I am an original co-sponsor of the Keeping Families Together Act and the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act, which provides standards for facilities at which aliens in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security are detained. Additionally, I have co-sponsored the Family Unit Right and Protective Act, which requires the reunification of families separated upon entry into the United States because of the "zero tolerance" immigration policy requiring criminal prosecution of all adults apprehended crossing the border illegally.

The children who have crossed our borders are looking for safety from violence. Instead, they have found cold cages, and concrete floors with aluminum blankets. For many of the families seeking asylum in the United States, crossing the border is the difference between life and death. However, when these families cross our nation's border, we are not a welcoming safe haven in a time of crisis. Instead, we are criminally prosecuting families seeking safe refuge, separating children from parents, and scattering the children across our nation.

As a country that was built by immigrants, it is disgraceful how we are treating immigrants at our own border. Therefore, I am urging my colleagues to cosponsor and support the Keeping Families Together Act and the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act. As the global leader in the fight to protect human rights, the United States can and must do better when it comes to the treatment of asylum seekers.

THANKING PAULINE M. BROWN

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, July 26, 2018*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that a talented constituent Pauline M. Brown of Barnwell, South Carolina, has written an inspiring book entitled *A Touch of Heaven*. Beginning with love letters to her husband serving in Vietnam in 1968, she has continued writing, composing more than five hundred poems. I include in the RECORD the following poem from her book, *A Friendly Hello* (pg. 36):

#### A FRIENDLY HELLO

Always believe in the simplest things—  
Sunshine and flowers, flags blowing in the wind,  
The music of children, rain on a tin roof,  
Afternoons spent with a cherished friend.  
A friendly hello can make all the difference  
In anyone's fragile state of mind.  
Say "I miss you," "I love you,"  
"God bless you, my friend,"  
And the saddest of spirits will be realigned.  
A friendly hello can dry the tears of heartache.  
A little encouragement can rescue a lost cause.  
Remember a friend who brought you back  
from despair,  
And do the same for someone else, just because.

IN HONOR OF VICKY RUDY

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**  
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, July 26, 2018*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor and recognize Vicky Rudy for her tireless service and unrelenting commitment to the residents, businesses, and families of the Eighth Congressional District of Texas.

A graduate of Arkansas State University, Vicky began her career in city government over twenty years ago, serving as the first city administrator for the City of Montgomery and, subsequently, the City of Rollingwood, Texas.

In March of 2010, Vicky was named the City Manager of Oak Ridge North—a position she has held for eight years. Under Vicky's leadership and supervision, this vibrant, tightly knit community has flourished and prospered, experiencing tremendous growth throughout the past decade.

During her tenure as City Manager, Vicky spearheaded numerous projects to the benefit of the area—including important efforts to fully rehabilitate the city's residential sewer system and water plant. She also helped spur economic growth in the region by championing the development and growth of businesses across the city, almost doubling the occupancy of the retail sector in Oak Ridge North.

One of the most respected city managers in Texas, Vicky has enacted positive change throughout her community. She has dedicated the entirety of her career to positively affecting those around her, and as each resident of Oak Ridge North would attest, she has certainly succeeded.

After nearly two decades in public service, Vicky will begin her hard-earned and well-deserved retirement in August. She plans to